

WOOLFEST 2009 INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Christine Ticknor, Lyndhurst, OH

Christine is a lifelong crocheter and knitter, has worked as a crochet model maker for Coats & Clark publications and a technical editor for crochet pattern books from Quarto Publishing. Christine is a Craft Yarn Council certified instructor in both crochet and knitting. She's taught at Tamarella Yarns, JoAnn Stores, and at *A Knitter's Fantasy*.

Lorraine Ehrlinger, a TKGGA Master Knitter – Level III and CYC certified instructor, has taught at various venues over the last six years from local yarn shops, such as Fine Points and Susan Yarns, to fiber events such as *A Knitter's Fantasy* and Lake Metroparks Farmpark's Woolfest (formerly known as Fiberfest), to the TKGGA Regional and National Conventions, and finally to guilds and continuing education programs. Lorraine is also a published knitting writer and designer of knitting patterns.

Greg & Amy Francisco are the owners and operators of [Jehovah Jireh Woolmill](#) in southwestern Michigan since 1998. Amy is master of the dye pot with a degree in art education. Her eye has helped build their reputation on the vividness and variety of colors and blends. Greg has a degree in agriculture education, helping him to work closely with the shepherds who supply their mill and ensure the best quality fleece. Visit their booth at the vendor marketplace.

Louise Painter has been a quilter since 1981, a knitter since 1985, and a spinner since 1996. Louise and her friend Sandra Garrett formed *Two Wool Crazy Ladies* and have been vendors at many fiber festivals for the past six years. They raise Romney sheep and needed an outlet for their wool; as a result, punch needle rug hooking has become their passion. Visit her booth at the vendor marketplace.

Debbie Henry, Kirtland, OH

Debbie has taught in the area for years and teaches a monthly class in needle felting at Artful Hands Studio.

Barbara O'Brien

Barbara has been training and teaching various crafts and skills for 20 years. As a Corporate Trainer for Things Remembered she honed her skills training everything offered by the company, including sales and engraving. After her retirement she has concentrated on training arts & craft skills like wool needle felting, sewing and mixed media art, as well as her own creations and participation in Wool Fests and Craft Shows.

Rebekah L. Smith, Chesterland, OH

Rebekah's lifelong interest in art was enhanced by an appreciation for country antiques and folk art at home. Smith became a serious student of the Rufus Porter style and the Pennsylvania decorative painting of the 18th and 19th century. She has combined these with old surfaces to evolve her own style.

The objects Smith paints are early boxes, furniture that needs redone and early tinware. She continues the art of the itinerant limner in her wall murals, faux graining, and stenciling in homes. Locally handcrafted Brides boxes and overmantels created from early boards are available to be custom painted. Smith also does custom work for clients who have furniture and smalls that they want painted.

Each piece is Smith's own interpreted design and one-of-a-kind. She researches and studies designs in museums and antique shops, touching and looking at original surfaces. Smith strives for artistic excellence and museum quality.

Sharon Klusmann, Tallmadge, OH

Sharon has been weaving, designing and teaching basketry for over 20 years. She not only teaches basketry from her home studio in Tallmadge, OH but at national conventions and guilds throughout the country. She has had three of her designs featured in *Create and Decorate Magazine* in partnership with her friend, Barbara Franzreb, who creates the painting designs for the lids. She loves to introduce the art of basket weaving to those who are truly beginners and to teach new techniques and "tricks" to more advanced students that keep them excited so we can continue passing this wonderful art form on for generations to come.

Susie Smithers, De Graff, OH

Teaching: Woven Table Runner, Card Weaving

Susie is an avid knitter, spinner, weaver and felter. She is a graduate of OSU, retired schoolteacher, and member of a variety of Llama organizations. Susie is also a certified ALSA fiber fleece judge and owner of Rollicking Hills Fiber Design. Visit her booth at the vendor marketplace.

Deb Yeagle, Lindsey, Ohio

Teaching:

Deb is an avid spinner, felter and weaver and also raises llamas, alpacas, and Shetland sheep. Deb is a middle school art teacher with a Masters degree in administration for the University of Toledo. She is an ALSA llama, alpaca and fiber judge and is presently serving on the Board of Directors for that organization.